

# LOUISVILLE MEDICAL NEWS.

"NEC TENUI PENNA."

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## AUT BOGUS AUT NULLUS.

It is not often that opportunity offers for the *News* to make a personal inspection of the Phenomenon. For some reason or other the Great Truth-teller has gotten it into its head that it would not be a welcome spectator at the performances which take place at the Phenomenon's quarters. In fact, the building "unsurpassed in equipments" has a very forbidding aspect to our eye; and though we have sometimes had a desire to pass beyond its walls and see for ourselves the famous wax-model and precious manikin which they inclose, and hear with our own ear the scientific courses of lectures, which we understand are delivered principally about ourselves, we could never make up our mind to put ourselves beyond the "porto rico" which adorns its front, or step over the "mortgage" which beautifies its rear. Hence we are delighted when the Phenomenon comes out from behind its mysterious intrenchments, and submits itself for awhile to mortal gaze.

Last week it had one of these field days. Its winter branch, the "Louisville Medical College," had its commencement at Library Hall; and though, we are ashamed to say, we were not invited, we could not restrain the impulse to join the crowd which congregates in such numbers at this as at other free shows. Of course we had a pleasant evening. The music, the flowers, and the ribbons can not fail to strike a responsive chord in the heart which has one touch of nature left; and when displayed on such an occasion as the one which was before us, bring back the once happy day, when in the eye of hope fees and gratitude were

far less hypothetical than they prove to the realization of practice.

The speeches too were good. The young gentlemen of the class acquitted themselves as young gentlemen of the class should. We love to see youth warm and loyal. Of course their *alma mater* is all she should be, and "mocking bird" and "magnolia" and "ice-capped summits" are pretty phrases which we hope will never be abolished as long as medical classes represent the various points of the compass. And we love to see age classical too, and enjoyed with a keenness that pen could ill describe the

"Justum et tenacem propositi virum,  
Non civium ardor prava jubentium," etc.,

which adorned the speech of the elderly gentleman who spoke for the faculty. The fact is, the exercises proceeded so fairly, the atmosphere around breathed so good and true, it was so much like other commencements, that we doubted if it could be the Phenomenon. "One touch of bogus at least will it show," thought we, "to establish its identity;" and it did—several. Commenced was the roll-call of the graduates; and being of a mathematical turn of mind we could but count them as they were called and stepped to the front. It stopped at FORTY-FOUR. Then the president of the trustees (who has nothing to do with the spring organization) stepped forward; and after remarking the usual remarks concerning the noble profession, "by the authority of the commonwealth of Kentucky in him [so jealously] confided," he did then and there confer upon each of them the degree of M.D., with all the rights and privileges appertaining to that scarce and distinctive title.

"Forty-four!" thought we; "what a falling off was there, gentlemen of the country!" And while we were musing upon the phrase, "largest school in the West," the music which had greeted the fortunate forty-four upon their entrance into the profession ceased, and stepped forward to the foot-lights one of the learned faculty, and said, "In the roll-call of graduates, the names of Smith, Jones, and Brown were omitted by mistake. The president of the board of trustees requests me to say that they will please consider that the degree of M.D. was also conferred upon them." And Jones, Smith, and Brown, we suppose, were thereby enrolled in the great army which fights disease. At any rate, we had not legal acumen enough to determine whether or not the commonwealth of Kentucky had given powers to one man which could be delegated to another. Last year the mistake (which, we suppose, *must* occur with so inaccurate an arithmetician as the Phenomenon) was the other way—the degree was conferred on men who were not members of the school. We began to know that we were in the presence of the Phenomenon. Music again; and then magnificently came forward the double dean and treasurer, commander-in-chief of the seven which do fight by winter, and the same seven which do fight by spring, under the banner of the "two separate and distinct institutions" known as the Kentucky School and Louisville College, dulcet player upon the tuneful organs yclept the Richmond and Louisville and American Bi., which night and day do sing the praises of the "separate and distinct," and confusion to the enemies thereof. Said he, "I rise now to administer the Hippocratic oath." Then seeing that our eagle eye was upon him, and the broad smile on our countenance, at the mention of a solemn farce, he added, apologetically, (and may we use his style, "slandrously,") "As is the custom in New York, as it is in Philadelphia." Then the seven and forty (doctors' sons and all) swore by All Heal (a jay-bird oath), though they had been mulcted of forty-five dollars for their "bene-

ficiary scholarships," besides extra fees for "professors' quizzes," they would teach the sons of their preceptors "by lecture, by precept, by every other mode, without fee or reward," calling upon their young heads, should they fail to do so, the horrible, the blood-curdling imprecation, "May the reverse be my lot!"

We knew then we were in the presence of the Phenomenon; and knew better next day that we had been there, for the superior quality of the "bogus" in which it deals then became more apparent. In the newspaper account of the affair, as in the issue of the American Bi-Weekly\* (for March 3d) the list of graduates is given as numbering ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE, to make up which the names of M. D.'s, previous graduates of the school, are added to swell the FORTY-SEVEN to this amount. Forty-seven men in shawls grow in one night to one hundred and forty-one men in buckram, that the failing fortunes of this school may be concealed. One of the names which swells this list has to our certain knowledge appeared on such occasions seven times. He may well be considered as the best graduated man in America.

The diplomas were not issued on the evening of the commencement, perhaps not being ready; but next day very medical-looking young gentlemen with very official-looking documents accosted the citizen with the question, "Where can I get my name put in these papers?" Were they indeed blank diplomas of the Phenomenon again seeking "illuminated text"?

Said the salutorian of the class on the evening of the commencement, "The Louisville Medical College is inferior to no *similar* institution in this country." We ask, is there from Alaska to the Florida Reefs an institution similar to the Louisville Medical College?

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\* One hundred and thirty-five in American Bi-Weekly.

**"WHEN THE ORTOLANS HOMEWARD FLY."**

The sky has been lately darkened with the flight of the spring hatching of the above interesting birds. In looking at the flock we were surprised to see what a large proportion were in the plumage of the Bobolink; and as this is not the season for their appearance in this garb, we were not a little puzzled to account for it. It has been suggested that the doubt lately expressed of the validity of the charter of the Doubleback-action Incubator, or at least the Kentucky School portion of it, was the inducement for these birds to appear in this interesting manner.

We also perceived—known by their rusty and battered plumage—a good many old birds mingled with the new-fledged flock. We suppose they were simply there to make the size of the spring flock look more respectable, and to conceal the ravages that our skillful and oft-repeated shots had made. We don't think it fooled any body, as the label M. D. was attached to so many as to make the flock look quite spotted.

Among the battered old birds we were not surprised at seeing the "Drummond" light of the profession, as a catalogue without his name would not seem right and proper; there are not many within the last ten years without him. He is to-day the most graduated man in America. We shall look for him again when the Incubator sends out another brood this summer.

We looked in vain for Thos. J. Wilson, *alias* Morbison. We suppose, however, that the last shot we took at him has frightened him away from this country, as he would hardly trust himself in range of our well-aimed weapon nearer than Chicago or New York. But, poor bird, he is probably suffering from the wounds of our last shot at him, or may be that he has hidden his poor riddled carcass in some sequestered hedgerow, and rendered up his little blighted life.

We are sorry to have spoken of him with levity in this connection, and, in the strong expression which winds up the time-honored

Hippocratic oath, hope "that the reverse has been his lot."

WHAT must be the astonished delight of the friends of the Bobolink-Ortolan on his return to his native "woodland wild"! Missed from his accustomed roost for nine months only, he returns with M. D. on his two diplomas! His friends read of the degrees being conferred with "music of the band" amid the plaudits of Louisville's assembled loveliness; and will no doubt agree with us in the propriety of the new motto we suggest for the Phenomenon, *Tuto\* cito et jucunde*.

**Original.****FRACTURE OF THE TIBIA.**

BY R. F. LOGAN, M. D.

Jan. 2, 1877, I was requested by a colored man, Emanuel Bell, to visit his son, who had been thrown from a horse about a week previously, and had been complaining of pain in his leg ever since.

I found the patient, a boy seventeen years old, sitting in a chair with his leg supported on a stool in front of him. The leg from the ankle to the knee was swollen and exquisitely tender to the least touch; so much so that I at first suspected periostitis of the tibia. The slightest motion caused him to cry out with pain. There was no deformity. His father gave the following history of the injury: A week previous the boy, in attempting to ride a colt, was thrown, the animal falling upon him with his right leg underneath. He got up, and with the assistance of a stick hobbled home, suffering a great deal of pain in the effort. He has been unable to walk or to make any motion since without the severest pain. The "white folks," in whose opinion Emanuel appeared to place the most implicit faith, had seen the case, and concluded that there could be no bones

\*To make it more excruciating, this should be pronounced *two-tee*.

broken, because the boy could "work his toes." The family had procured a bottle of liniment, and other domestic remedies, which had been used *ad libitum*; but the bruise would not "go down." In the meantime the family had changed quarters, and the boy had been hauled to Shelbyville, a distance of five miles, in a common road-wagon, over a rough road, suffering torture during the trip. At the end of a week the father concluded that something else ought to be done for the boy, and I was called in to see him.

Upon examination the injury proved to be a fracture of the tibia, much to the surprise of the family, who did not believe that one could "work the toes" when the bone was broken. It is surprising how prevalent such an opinion is among non-professional persons. Not only the ignorant, but even the most intelligent classes of persons in a community often make this the test of the nature of an injury. If the patient can "work his toes," fracture is excluded, and liniments are in order. I truly believe that not a few cases of deformity result from this not uncommon mistake, and that quite a number of cases of fracture of the tibia—the fibula not being broken—go unrecognized because the injury is not examined by a physician—no treatment adopted; hence deformity and weakness of the limb result.

The fracture in this case was about four inches above the ankle, the usual seat of fracture of the tibia when the lesser bone remains unbroken. A plaster-of-paris dressing was at once applied, and the patient made a very good recovery in about three weeks.

I do not propose to discuss the value of the fixed dressing in cases of fracture at this time. I think that both the advocates and the opponents of this plan have overshot the mark. I have used the fixed dressing for a long time in treating fractures below the knee; and I can not conceive that any thing can be more simple, more easily applied, more efficient, or more comfortable to the patient than this method. I

apply the dressing as soon as I can get the materials ready. Where weight is no objection the plaster-of-paris is the best. If the patient is a child, the starch bandage or the manilla-paper dressing (as used by my friend Professor Cowling) is better. The silicate of soda is perhaps superior to any thing else where strength and lightness are required, and will doubtless supersede all other materials in fixed dressings except the plaster, which I regard as superior to it where weight is no objection.

I recall to mind five cases of fracture below the knee which have been treated by myself with the fixed dressing within the last few years. In three of these cases both bones were broken; two of them in the vicinity of the ankle-joint, and one about midway between the knee and ankle. In the other two the tibia alone was fractured, one of them being a compound fracture from the kick of a horse. The case of compound fracture was "put up" as if no external wound existed, and a most excellent result was accomplished. This was a splendid case to apply the carbolic acid, and I lost a good opportunity to glorify the virtues of this remedy, as the injury healed without any discharge of pus. But such blunders will be committed by country doctors, and there is no help for it. I said three years ago, in a report on Surgery which I read before the State Medical Society, that carbolic acid was an agent seldom called for in country practice. I have seen no reason to change my opinion. I know of at least two other cases of compound fracture with results equally as gratifying. One I saw, about three years ago, in a case with Dr. Henry Lowry, in the person of a negro man, who, in trying to "break" a colt, got a fall, with his foot twisted under the animal, resulting in a compound dislocation of the ankle with fracture of the os calcis. The parts were so much torn and twisted that amputation was mentioned, but we concluded to give him a chance to save the foot. The injured parts healed without a particle of inflammation, and in six weeks he was well. "Dis nigger,"



however, was not born to be hurt by ordinary means. The year previous he had a pitchfork run through his wrist-joint. This also healed without the discharge of a single drop of pus. No carbolic acid was used.

The other case of compound fracture treated by fixed dressing, as if no external wound existed, occurred in the person of a personal friend of mine, a physician of well-known reputation. The dressing was applied by Dr. Rodman, of Frankfort, Ky., who will perhaps report the case.

These cases should certainly encourage us to make an attempt to close the external wound, and, if possible, convert the compound fracture into a simple one where the soft parts have not been too much bruised and lacerated to heal by the first intention. Some physician may decline to do this if air has been admitted into the external wound. I do not know a greater bugbear to the professional mind than "external air." It is the terror of surgeons. I confess that I do not share this fear. I have never witnessed a case of tenotomy in which air, and plenty of it, did not gain entrance into the wound, and could be squeezed out in abundance with the blood; yet I have never seen any evils result from it. I have seen many cases of injury exposed to the air which healed with no inflammation. I think that where inflammation and suppuration follow the entrance of air into external wounds there are two factors in the production of this result which have been too much overlooked by medical men: first, the degree of bruising and tearing of the soft parts; second, the condition of the air. It stands to reason and accords to experience that, should the air be filled with septic germs, as is usually the case in hospital practice, the entrance of air into wounds will provoke inflammation and suppuration; and therefore the exclusion of air in hospitals is a desideratum much to be desired, and best fulfilled doubtless by the method adopted by Prof. Lister. When the air is too cold also it may provoke inflammation; but when the air is pure and warm I do not believe that any such

disastrous consequences are to be dreaded from its entrance into wounds as have been represented. It will soon be absorbed, and leave no trace behind. It frequently happens that the soft parts are too much lacerated and contused to heal without inflammation, and I feel assured that much of the evil consequences after wounds which have been attributed to the admission of air result from this cause.

Pain is the most common and the most equivocal of all the symptoms of disease or injury, and yet there are cases in which the character of the pain is quite significant. Whenever called to see a case of injury, however slight it may appear to be, and the patient complains of sharp, cutting pain located at a definite fixed point in the continuity of a bone, the case merits a close examination. The pain is peculiarly suggestive if it is increased by motion or by gently handling the parts. There is a peculiarity about the pain of fracture which, though difficult to describe, is quite significant when once observed. The patient shrinks from you and cries out suddenly sometimes even before you touch him. This is caused by the involuntary contraction of muscles dragging the rough and sharp ends of the fragments against the sensitive parts. In most cases the mere handling the bones will excite this contraction, and in patients of highly nervous temperament this spasmodic action of the muscles may be induced simply by apprehension; so that if you propose an examination, the patient complains of pain before you touch him. If you draw gently and steadily on a broken limb in the direction of the deformity, if there is any, no pain results unless you "let go" suddenly. Such is the peculiarity of the pain in fracture as I have observed it.

All the cases mentioned in this paper were treated by the fixed dressing, and each made a good recovery. One of my patients would get drunk occasionally while under treatment. He was the first and only man I ever saw stagger on crutches.

SHELBYVILLE, KY.

## PULSATILLA.\*

BY HENRY P. WENZEL, M. D.

"All the anemoneæ have" an acrid, pungent taste, and contain an acrid and vesicating principle, which when crystallized assumes the shape of brilliant white needles. They also contain a volatile oil and tannic acid. All the species are poisonous. The anemone pratensis is said "to poison cattle, producing bloody urine and convulsions." In overdoses it produces diarrhea, hematuria, headache, nausea, vomiting, nervous excitement, and prostration. I have taken both the German tincture and the American fluid extract. In doses of ten drops of the tincture three times a day for several days, careless ease, such as is often produced by small doses of hasheesh, manifested itself. In increased doses it caused frequent micturition and hematuria. In twenty-drop doses of the tincture thrice daily for a month it produced an eruption of pimples upon the forehead, face, shoulders, chest, and lastly upon the back. In forty-drop doses it caused violent frontal headache, nervous excitement, and bloody stools. Continued a week, asthenopia and photophobia were produced; and also tinnitus aurium, such as is the result of cinchonism, with numbness of the integument, then general anæsthesia, impairment of motor power, with the heart's action rendered feeble and irregular. In long-continued overdoses it acts similar to aconite. I took it in from three- to ten-drop doses three times a day for three weeks, and it relieved me of a headache for which I had vainly tried the bromide and iodide of potassium, carb. ammonia, guarana, quinine, etc. Evidently it acts directly on the nerve centers, and principally on the cerebrum.

From five to fifteen drops is sufficient dose to commence with—children proportionately less—this to be administered four times a day. I usually prescribe thus:

R Tinct. pulsatilla (German).....  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij;  
Aque.....  $\frac{3}{4}$  iv. M.

Dose, a teaspoonful four times daily. The

\* Extracted from the Transactions of the Alumni Association of the Hospital College of Medicine.

preparation is pleasant, and can be given to children without much ado, as there is no unpleasant odor or taste to disguise.

Of the alkaloid anemonium I can only repeat what has been said by others. "It crystallizes in brilliant white needles resembling camphor." Its formula, according to Lowig, is  $C_{15}H_{10}O_6$ . Alkalies decompose it into anemonic acid. Debruschinsky says that chloroform dissolves it. To my knowledge no salt of this alkaloid has been prepared. Doubtless it could be accomplished. It would probably be an excellent remedy for hypodermic use; but under any circumstances not more than  $\frac{1}{125}$  of a grain should be so injected, and internally not over  $\frac{1}{16}$  should be given, as the remedy is very dangerous. It may be cautiously increased to  $\frac{1}{40}$  of a grain. Externally it has been used in scald head, ulcers, caries, and necrosis. Some authors praise its value in venereal diseases, indurated glands, serpiginous ulcers, etc., also in paralysis. Oculists have used it in opacity of the cornea. Störk found the drug useful in amaurosis and other affections of the eye, in secondary syphilis, and cutaneous diseases. It has been found efficacious in pertussis, in hysterical women where there is debility and faulty nutrition of the nerve centers, in the nervousness of onanists, in excessive tobacco-consumers, in amenorrhea the result of cold or emotional excitement, also to relieve the frontal headache of the onanist, etc. It has been recommended for the cutting pain of gastric disorders, in obstinate hiccough, in chorea, and paralysis.

In spermatorrhea, in heart-diseases, and some other chronic affections, we find certain head symptoms playing an important part and giving a good deal of trouble. Pulsatilla gives prompt relief in such cases. It exerts a marked influence upon the reproductive organs of both male and female. It lessens sexual excitement in both, but does not diminish sexual power; on the contrary, rather strengthens it by lessening morbid excitement. In eight cases of masturbation it exceeded my most sanguine expectation, even proving superior to bromide of potas-

sium. Pulsatilla can be given to its fullest extent in these cases without impairing vitality, while the bromide will decompose the blood-corpuscles. The onanist can be kept completely under control, and all irritation removed from the genito-urinary tract by rest from manipulation. It so controls the nervous system, when pushed far enough, that mechanical orgasm becomes an impossibility. My patients have expressed themselves much benefited after using the German tincture a week. They say that they do not feel like masturbating any more. It acts like a charm—not as a magic cure-all, but as a nerve-sedative in this baneful malady.

THERESA, WIS.

### Correspondence.

*To the Editor of the Medical News:*

Dear Sir,—Seeing, a short time since, in the columns of a contemporary journal a communication from a gentleman who claimed to be the youngest surgeon in Kentucky, I desire to dispute his claim to that title. It is true that at the age of fourteen years he performed the operation of paracentesis abdominis, and also extracted a number of teeth, amputated the thigh, and delivered several women. These facts display great precocity in one so young, but do not by any means prove the correctness of his assertions.

At the early age of six years I performed tracheotomy on my younger brother, who, while engaged in playing in the woods, was so unfortunate as to have a foreign body lodge in his trachea. Seeing the urgency of an immediate operation, I requested a bystander to administer the anæsthetic, while I proceeded to operate with the only instruments at my command, an ordinary pocket-knife and two fish-hooks, which I used for retractors. The substance I found proved to be a mock-orange weighing sixteen ounces. When the trachea was opened the orange flew out, and striking the small boy who was administering the ether, felled him to

the ground in an unconscious condition. He was restored to consciousness by a turpentine enema. My brother recovered.

At about ten years of age I was called one evening to see a gentleman who had fallen a considerable distance. A careful examination revealed a comminuted fracture of the shaft of the femur. I applied blue glass splints, and he recovered in two weeks, the leg being one inch longer than the uninjured one.

My obstetrical practice has been very extensive. I have delivered several hundred women, and performed the Caesarian section on three occasions with perfect recovery of mother and child in each instance. I was the first accoucheur who ever applied the ice cap to the mother's head to excite uterine contractions. Before I had concluded to study medicine, I removed *twenty-four teeth* from the upper jaw of my aged nurse, who had been pyralized by an ignorant eclectic. After the extraction of the teeth I applied a powder composed of equal parts of salicylic acid and pulverized blue glass to the gums, and in the course of a few weeks a complete set of new and beautiful teeth had taken the places recently occupied by their decayed ancestors.

Amputation at the hip-joint, which has ever been a bugbear to the fossils of the profession, has been performed by me over twenty times. I am the individual who removed a prominent member of the electoral commission from a calculus weighing seven to eight pounds.

Ovariectomy, trepanning, ligation of the large arterial trunks, and other minor operations, were the favorite pastimes of my youth. I am now in my sixteenth year.

I make the report more for the honor of Kentucky and Jonesville than

BLOWHARD.

THE mills of the NEWS may not grind with celerity sufficient to please the most ardent friends of decency and reform, but they grind exceedingly fine.

## Formulary.

[Communicated by various practitioners.]

### ANÆSTHETIC MIXTURES.

Powdered camphor.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$ ;  
Sulphuric ether.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ .

Dissolve. On applying the mixture for a minute to the part where a superficial operation is to be practiced, local anæsthesia is temporarily produced.

### LIME-AND-GLYCERINE LINIMENT.

Lime-water.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ ;  
Glycerine.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ ;  
Oil of almonds.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$ .

Mix. For burns and certain pruritis.

### HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

The following is said to be the composition of this medicine:

Aloes.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ ;  
Rhubarb..... gr. xxvj;  
Pepper..... gr. vij;  
Saffron..... gr. j;  
Sulphate of soda..... gr. j.

Divide into 144 pills.

### SEDATIVE PILLS FOR A DRY COUGH.

Asafetida.....  $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$ ;  
Sulph. morph..... gr. iij;

Make thirty pills. Take one or two before going to bed.

## Miscellany.

**MEDICAL COLLEGE COMMENCEMENTS IN LOUISVILLE, KY.**—The approach of March brought with it the usual college commencements in this city. The first in order was that of the Hospital Medical College, which took place in Library Hall on the evening of February 22d. The degree of M. D. was conferred on forty-one graduates by the Rev. Dr. Breck, chancellor of Central University. The recipients of the degree were:

E. L. Applewhite, Mississippi; W. H. Barnard, Mississippi; J. R. Bruner, Kentucky; T. B. Buchanan, M. D., Kentucky; G. W. Burton, M. D., Indiana; A. W. Carpenter, Kentucky; H. E. Connor, Ohio; Boyd Cornick, Tennessee; T. A. Crawford, South Carolina; R. C. Crandon, Kentucky; W. B. Gardiner, Kentucky; Chas. D. Gardiner, Kentucky; Benj. A. Garr, Kentucky; E. McD. Gober, Kentucky; R. H. Green-

wade, Kentucky; W. M. Groce, Alabama; W. G. Hayes, Tennessee; J. W. Gaston, Texas; P. T. Henson, Kentucky; Jarrot A. B. Huddleston, Kentucky; Walter Izard, Virginia; Lindsay Johnson, M. D., Georgia; Louis K. Knapp, Kansas; James A. Lynch, Kentucky; U. B. Mason, Kentucky; R. A. Matthews, Texas; C. G. R. Moutoux, Indiana; C. D. Neven, Arkansas; J. P. Park, Tennessee; H. E. Pelle, Kentucky; L. Jones Price, Tennessee; C. M. Ramsdell, Indiana; R. W. Rowland, Mississippi; W. J. Rogers, Kentucky; C. W. Schell, M. D., Indiana; T. H. Stallcup, Texas; Frank Summers, Kentucky; R. R. Taylor, M. D., Kentucky; Leonard X. Taylor, Kentucky; S. A. Veal, Kentucky; J. B. Wells, Kentucky. Total, forty-one.

The award of prizes was as follows:

1. For the best notes of the clinical lectures of Prof. F. C. Wilson, the Bennet H. Young prize (a pocket case of instruments), to W. H. Barnard, of Mississippi.
2. For the best notes of the clinical lectures of Prof. Holloway at the college and hospital, a pocket-case of instruments, to W. B. Gardiner, of Kentucky.
3. For the best notes of the lectures on chemistry by Prof. Marvin, a pocket-case of instruments, to H. M. McCullough, of Kentucky, a first-course student.
4. For the best notes on the clinical lectures on diseases of children by Prof. Larrabee, a gold medal, to W. B. Mason, of Kentucky.
5. For the best thesis based on original investigation, Bennett's Practice of Medicine, from John P. Morton & Co., to C. M. Ramsdell, of Indiana.
6. For the best notes on the clinical lectures on the eye and ear by Prof. Reynolds, a gold medal, from Messrs. Cook & Sloss, to C. M. Ramsdell, of Indiana.
7. For the best anatomical preparation, the faculty gold medal, to E. McD. Gober, of Kentucky.
8. For the best general standing in all the branches, the curator's gold medal, to Boyd Cornick, of Tennessee.

The order of exercises at this commencement was as follows:

Prayer by Dr. Stuart Robinson.

The class salutatory, by Dr. Harry E. Pelle, of Louisville.

Conferring of degrees by the chancellor.

The address on the part of the faculty, by Prof. Frank Wilson.

The presentation of prizes by the chancellor.

The class valedictory, by Dr. T. A. Crawford, of South Carolina.

**COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE LOUISVILLE MEDICAL COLLEGE.**—The commence-



ment exercises of the Louisville Medical College were held in Library Hall on Tuesday evening, February 27th. The degree of M.D. was conferred upon forty-seven graduates by Hon. John M. Harlan, president of Board of Trustees. The recipients of the degree were as follows:

J. B. Allen, Kentucky; L. M. Bassett, Texas; L. P. Cornell, Iowa; W. A. Dickey, Indiana; J. R. Farrier, Alabama; A. W. Freeman, Indian Territory; O. L. Geiger, Kentucky; D. B. Griggs, Indiana; Taylor Hudson, Texas; W. A. Hall, Iowa; F. L. Johnson, Texas; G. A. McCandless, Pennsylvania; C. W. Null, North Carolina; C. D. Parke, Alabama; R. M. Sadler, Mississippi; Otho W. Schwarm, Ohio; J. S. Strother, Kentucky; J. H. Stevens, Texas; H. M. Templeton, Iowa; M. E. Warren, Indiana; James Youtsey, Ky.; E. T. Buecking, Illinois; J. C. Burbaker, Virginia; W. B. Cheatham, Georgia; Arch. Dixon, Kentucky; B. F. Eager, Mississippi; J. C. B. Foster, Pennsylvania; M. W. Fletcher, Alabama; D. L. Gaillard, South Carolina; R. F. Gray, North Carolina; J. F. Gaines, Kentucky; S. P. Hopson, Kentucky; B. F. Hall, Iowa; L. W. Jones, Illinois; John Moran, Missouri; A. W. H. Morris, Kentucky; Geo. A. Nelson, Texas; A. P. Owens, Illinois; F. T. Savage, Arkansas; T. C. Strong, Tennessee; W. S. Savage, Texas; M. C. Weaver, Arkansas; T. B. Young, Indiana; Jas. H. Yarger, Iowa.

#### The award of prizes was as follows:

Gold medals—To M. C. Weaver, of Arkansas, and A. P. Owens, of Illinois.

Prof. Cook's prize—L. M. Bassett, of Texas.

Prof. Keller's prize—T. D. Parker, of Alabama.

Prof. Kelley's prize—Geo. M. Carnachan, Pennsylvania.

Prof. Gaillard's prize—D. L. Gaillard, South Carolina.

Prof. Wright's prize on chemical philosophy—B. F. Eager, Mississippi.

Prof. Wright's prize on toxicology—L. M. Bassett, Texas.

Profs. Ireland and Goodman's prize—O. L. Yelger, Kentucky.

Dr. W. H. Watkins's prize on clinical lectures on diseases of women—L. M. Bassett, Texas.

Thesis prize, silver medal, presented by Cook & Sloss—W. A. Dickey, Indiana.

Dr. C. W. Null's prize—A. P. Owens, Illinois.

Honorable mention—David Gaillard, S. Carolina.

The salutatory address on the part of the students was delivered by Dr. M. E. Warren, of Indiana; the address on the part of the faculty by Rev. Dr. Carnochan, of Pennsyl-

vania; and the class valedictory by Dr. W. A. Dickey, of Indiana.

THE commencement exercises of the Medical and Law Departments of the University of Louisville were held in Library Hall on Thursday afternoon, March 1st.

The president of the University, Hon. Isaac Caldwell, conferred the degree of M.D. on seventy-seven graduates in medicine, and that of L.L.B. on nineteen graduates in law. The graduates in medicine were:

L. L. Alexander, Tennessee; M. De L. Allen, Kentucky; V. P. Armstrong, jr., Kentucky; C. W. Babbitt, Kentucky; M. D. Baker, Louisiana; S. S. Barnett, Texas; Edward Bean, jr., Kentucky; C. H. Beard, Kentucky; G. A. Berquist, Sweden; J. R. Burchell, Kentucky; H. C. Burroughs, Kentucky; G. H. Cannon, Indiana; Zachariah Carnes, Kentucky; J. T. Chowning, Tennessee; J. McD. Clark, Mississippi; J. A. Connor, Kentucky; W. J. Cattel, Illinois; W. R. Dale, Kentucky; J. G. Daniels, Texas; G. R. Farra, Missouri; W. M. Ford, Kentucky; W. M. Forman, Kentucky; J. G. Fleming, Tennessee; T. J. Garrett, Texas; S. M. Gladney, Texas; David Gordon, Mo.; H. J. Hall, Penn.; G. P. Hall, Texas; J. H. Hall, Ky.; J. H. Hart, Ky.; J. C. Harris, Texas; F. H. Harrison, Ohio; Leo Harrison, Kentucky; Robert Henning, Indiana; A. G. Hobbs, Kentucky; J. S. Houston, Alabama; J. L. Howell, Tennessee; T. H. Hudson, Indiana; H. M. Isbell, Kentucky; T. N. Jones, Alabama; J. C. Kendrick, Texas; J. L. Long, Kentucky; C. H. Martin, Missouri; C. K. Metcalfe, jr., Kentucky; Thomas Milam, Kansas; C. D. Milner, Arkansas; J. O. Miller, Texas; J. J. Miller, Kentucky; G. F. Mitchell, Kentucky; J. F. M. Myers, Georgia; A. S. Nelson, Tennessee; J. A. Orr, Alabama; J. F. Parsons, Tennessee; R. J. Peak, Kentucky; H. L. Prather, Kentucky; P. H. Renn, Pennsylvania; G. J. E. Renner, Germany; W. C. Reid, Kentucky; D. A. Revell, Tennessee; J. T. Ricketts, jr., Kentucky; Bacon Saunders, Texas; S. A. Scott, Arkansas; W. A. Settle, Kentucky; J. R. Sigler, Kentucky; T. W. Sloan, Tennessee; Leon Straus, Kentucky; E. B. Terrell, Georgia; D. G. Thompson, Louisiana; S. L. Tillery, Tennessee; Q. A. Tipton, Missouri; S. N. Walker, Mississippi; J. E. Westmoreland, Tennessee; J. K. White, Pennsylvania; R. R. Winston, Kentucky; Otto Witte, Texas; J. A. Woolfolk, Kentucky; Harvey Voyles, Indiana; Ad Eundem, Isaac C. Walker, M. D.

On the roll of honor, containing the names of the first ten men of the class, were the names of the following gentlemen:

Bacon Saunders, M. D., of Texas; J. McD. Clark, M. D., of Mississippi; G. J. E. Renner, M. D., of Germany; W. J. Cottell, M. D., of Illinois; G. P. Hall, M. D., of Texas; C. K. Metcalfe, M. D., of Kentucky; Edward Bean, M. D., of Kentucky; H. J. Hall, M. D., of Pennsylvania; G. R. Farra, M. D., of Missouri; J. T. Ricketts, M. D., of Kentucky.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

To Bacon Saunders, M. D., of Texas, a gold medal, as a testimonial to his high position in the class, having obtained the first honor for general excellence as a student.

To Joseph McDowell Clark, M. D., of Mississippi, is awarded the second gold medal for general excellence.

To George J. E. Renner, M. D., of Germany, is awarded a gold medal for the third position in general excellence.

In the examination of students who could not be candidates for graduation for relative standing in the fundamental branches of anatomy, physiology, *materia medica*, and chemistry, it was determined, after a severe test, that Mr. George W. Ryan, of Louisville, and Mr. James E. Kempf, of Indiana, stood upon such a footing of equality that the examiners could not discriminate between them, but awarded a first honor to each of them—a case of pocket instruments, offered by Arthur Peter & Co., and a pocket-case, offered by Simon Jones, of the Louisville Pharmacy.

The second honor, a copy of Gross's System of Surgery, offered by John P. Morton & Co., is awarded to Abraham Forst, of Louisville, Ky.

The prize, a case of instruments, offered by Dr. William O. Roberts, demonstrator of anatomy in the University, is awarded to Dr. Bacon Saunders, of Texas, as first in the examination on Operative Surgery. Dr. Joseph McDowell Clark, of Mississippi, is entitled to honorable mention in this examination.

The medical class valedictory was delivered by J. Curtis Harris, of Texas; the valedictory on the part of the medical faculty by Prof. John E. Crowe.

OBITUARY.—Died, at Libertyville, Jefferson County, Iowa, of hereditary phthisis pulmonalis, E. G. Wilson, M. D., in the twenty-eighth year of his age. The doctor was a native of Scott County, Ind., and removed to Iowa about three weeks before his death. His last hours were spent at the house of his mother, whither he had gone to die. In his profession he was a close student, possessed of a clear and calm mind, de-

cisive in action, prompted by a sound judgment, as his practice abundantly proved. In the death of Dr. Wilson his wife has lost a kind and loving husband, his mother a dutiful son, the community a good physician and citizen, the church an earnest and faithful Christian, and the Masonic fraternity a zealous member. Had our brother lived he would have been a bright ornament to the medical profession and to society. R.

JOHN HUNTER. — The British Medical Journal of February 17th contains the full text of the Hunterian oration delivered by Sir James Paget in the Royal College of Surgeons on February 13th. The subject of the oration is Science in Surgery. It is a masterpiece of the great mind which constructed it. Of Hunter's character Sir James Paget says: "He filled himself with knowledge, and through knowledge he became an ardent lover of Nature. I say 'through knowledge;' for Nature, in her manifold perfections, inspires many kinds of love, and Hunter's was almost wholly intellectual. He had none of that love which moves the poet, or the idealist, or the theologian; for, in truth, neither poetry, nor idealism, nor theology ever colored the simplicity of his scientific mind. He had the social love of Nature, and he writes and speaks of the animals around him as if they were his companions. But his chief love was for the charms of truth that lie hidden beneath the veils, appearances of Nature; and his love for these was continually increased when every search revealed the utility of all he saw, the perfection of adjustment of every thing to its purpose, the evidence of design in every change, the evidence of a grandeur in a world of infinite variety of form, held steadfast by few laws. All these were motives to fresh study; and I can not doubt that he attained to that great achievement and satisfaction of the intellect when it can rest in a loving contemplation of the truth, loving it not only because it is right, but because it is beautiful. I can not doubt that there is given to some high intellects,

in view of a great field of scientific truth, a source of as pure delight as are the sensuous beauties of Nature to a cultivated artist's mind, or virtue to the enlightened conscience. Hunter had a pure, calm happiness in such contemplations. So Reynolds, his friend, seems to tell of him; for in that masterpiece of portraiture which teaches like a chapter of biography, Hunter is not shown as the busy anatomist or experimenter searching for objective facts; the records of his works are in the background, and he is at rest, looking out, but as one who is looking far beyond, and away from things visible, into a world of truth and law which can only be intellectually discerned. In the clear vision of that world was his reward. It may be the reward of all who will lead the scientific life with the same devotion and sincerity."

**DOCTORING THE RETURNS.**—At the commencement exercises of the "Louisville Medical College" the degree of M. D. was conferred upon FORTY-SEVEN graduates. The account of the affair in the newspapers gives the number as ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE; in the American Medical Bi-Weekly (the school's organ) it is ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE. Former M. D.'s of the school were brought in to swell the list.

**FERGUSON'S SUCCESSOR.**—The Brit. Med. Jour. brings forward very decidedly the name of Mr. Lister in connection with the chair of surgery left vacant by the death of Sir Wm. Fergusson. Mr. John Wood, of hernia fame, is the surgeon in King's College Hospital next in seniority to Sir Wm. Fergusson, and would naturally be chosen if the college does not go after the northern star.

**MEDICAL STUDENTS IN LOUISVILLE.**—The number of medical students present during the winter term of the colleges in Louisville was 456, distributed as follows: at the Hospital Medical College, 87; at the Louisville Medical College, 160; and at the University of Louisville, 229. Of these 165 re-

ceived the degree of M. D.; 41 from the Hospital Medical College, 47 from the Louisville Medical College, and 77 from the University of Louisville. There was a marked falling-off in the number of students as compared with the reports for the year previous, the University dropping 43 below its count for 1875-76, the Louisville Medical College 190 (more than one half), the Hospital College about holding its own.

**THE SOURCE OF LIFE.**—Now, I can not doubt that in the doctrine of the correlation of physical and vital forces we are nearer to the truth than we were in the Hunterian doctrine, which held that life is something altogether alien and different from other forms or methods of activity; but holding the correlation and mutual conversion of the forces does not determine the precedence of either the one or the other. If the vital and physical forces are mutually convertible, either may have preceded the other; the vital force may have preceded the physical, although life appeared late upon this planet, in any of the phenomena in which we can now study it; and even if we were to hold the possible conversion of physical or vital into mental force, into consciousness and will (though against this what I believe to be my consciousness and will are utterly repugnant), yet this would not prove the precedence of the physical force. The opposite conversion can be as well or as ill traced. Mental forces may have preceded physical; mind may have existed before any of the properties of matter; and thus, even in the view of science, the first essence may have been a Being willing and knowing, and the prime source of all the forces whose operations we now trace. I believe there is not any thing in science to disprove such a belief as this; but I doubt whether it be in the power of science yet to determine an order of precedence amongst the forces. I can not imagine any thing before a natural force except a supernatural will; and a belief of this kind is held by untutored minds as if it were in-

instinctive knowledge. For man seems naturally prone to believe that, beyond all that there is in the world, there must be a mind, or minds, in the likeness in which his own is created, and with which he is in some kind of personal relation. But science can not yet reach to the proof of these things; and, until it can reach to proof, science can not rest, and must not rest; but the firm and self-guiding belief that a supernatural Will and Knowledge was, and is, and will be, rests on the whole and manifold evidences of the Christian faith. These may seem often opposed to what we believe to be true in science. Then let us wait. Time—or if not time, eternity—will prove that science and the Christian theology are but two sides of truth, and that both sides are as yet only known in part.—*From Sir James Paget's Hunterian Oration.*

**RUSSIAN ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.**—The Russian Medical Gazette states that at the beginning of last year the Russian army had possessed 2,102 surgeons, 250 apothecaries, 6,887 assistant-surgeons, and 173 veterinary surgeons. This gives one surgeon for every 407 men, one apothecary for every 3,454 men, and one assistant-surgeon for every 161 men.—*The Doctor.*

## Selections.

**Treatment of Spasm of the Glottis.**—The attacks of spasm of the glottis are much more violent than those of false croup, being accompanied by contraction of the muscles of respiration, especially of the diaphragm, and sometimes even by general convulsions. In the treatment of this affection there is rarely time to employ the various methods mentioned in the books, such as chloroform, electricity, frictions, etc., and consequently the plan proposed by M. Charon seems to be all the more practical. This physician states that inhalations of ammonia rarely fail to cut short the attack. He advises mothers who have children subject to attacks of spasm of the glottis always to carry a bottle of ammonia with them. He cites the case of the wife of a physician, who followed this advice, and whose child always rapidly recovered

from the spasm with the help of the ammonia. Unfortunately, one day she did not have her flask with her, and while she was looking for it the child died asphyxiated.—*Medical Record, from Journ. de Méd. et de Chir.*

**Extract of Logwood as a Disinfectant.**—Dr. H. Mallory, in *New Remedies*, says: "For twelve years I have used extract of logwood as a disinfectant and deodorizer in cancer. I use it in the following manner: powdered logwood and hog's lard, of each, two ounces. To be mixed and made into a pomade, spread on lint and applied to the sloughing ulcer; the effect is magical, all the odor will disappear in half an hour. The astringency of the logwood will suppress the discharge. No other known agent will fill the indications so well, and yet I have not found a single member of the profession who had any knowledge of the agent until I suggested it. Will some of your numerous readers give it a trial and report the results?"

**Action of Chloral on the Rectum.**—It would appear that chloral is one of those agents which act with nearly as much energy when introduced in the rectum as when taken into the stomach. In a case of puerperal convulsions to which he had been called in consultation a solution of bromide of potassium with hydrate of chloral, which could not be swallowed by the patient, was injected into the rectum, with the effect of allaying spasm promptly and decidedly. It was repeated in the same case with excellent results. Since that time other trials of chloral as an enema have confirmed its value in this mode of administration. The quantity of thirty grains in two or three ounces of water will generally be sufficient for a single injection.—*Pacific Med. Jour.*

**Lotions for Urticaria.**—Professor Hardy recommends (*Union Méd.*, May 20th) the following lotion, to be applied several times a day in order to allay the itching in urticaria: chloroform ten, and oil of sweet almonds thirty parts. In obstinate cases he prescribes corrosive sublimate, one tenth to one seventh of a part; alcohol, ten parts; and distilled water, ninety parts. He gives also internally alkaline medicines, and if these do not prove efficacious he resorts to arsenic.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*

**Po-ho.**—A Berlin apothecary sells under the above title what he calls a "Chinese Essence, a safe and speedy remedy for headache, sickness, etc." Hager says it is simply pure oil of peppermint, somewhat old and dark. It is put up in little bottles, containing twenty-five drops, for thirty-seven cents; or eighty drops, for seventy-five cents.—*Druggists' Circular.*